(c) by when the second phase trial, which entails testing the engine inflight, is likely to be undertaken; and

(d) the total cost of the project and expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The tests conducted so far have proved mechanical soundness of design and conformity of performance parameters with design estimates. Further tests as per development schedule are in progress.

(c) The flight testing of the engine has been planned in December 1998.

(d) The total cost of the project is Rs. 609.16 crore (at 1994 price level). The expenditure incurred upto 31 July 1996 was Rs. 303.00 crore.

Opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas

3863. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL:
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the fate of recommendation made in 1994-95 by the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development regarding opening of more and more Kendriya Vidyalayas every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): The Government have approved opening of 20 Kendriya Vidyalayas each year from the academic year 1993-94 to 1997-98 under Civil and Defence Sectors and as many as found suitable under Project Sector. Accordingly 23 Kendriya Vidyalayas have been sanctioned during 1994-95 and 1995-96 each and 20 during 1996-97.

[English]

Employment of Women in Armed Forces

3864. SHRI GOPAL KRISHNA T.:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of women employed in country's armed forces as on date;

(b) the categories in which women are employed and whether any special service conditions are applied to women working in armed forces; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (c). The total number of women employed in country's armed forces as on date is 433.

2. Recruitment of women officers has been approved in the following branches/departments of the Armed Forces:

Army: Army Postal service, Judge Advocate General's department, Army Education Corps, Army Ordnance Corps (Central Ammunition Depots and Material Management), Army Service Corps (Food Scientist and Catering Officers), Corps of Signals, Intelligence Corps, Corps of Engineers, Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering and the Regiment of Artillery.

Navy: Education, Logistics, Law Cadres and the Executive Branch for Air Traffic Control duties.

Air Force: Non-Technical Ground duty Branches, namely, Administration, Logistics, Accounts, Education and Meteorology; Technical Branches: Flying Pilots (Transport & Helicopter Streams), Navigation Branches.

3. For the present, non-combatant role has been envisaged for women officers. Women officers will not generally be posted to field formations and their posting will be generally restricted to Service Headquarters and Command & Brigade Headquarters.

Closing of Missions Abroad

3865. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries where Indian Missions were closed during the last three years and the reasons therefor;

(b) the countries where the Government propose to open new Missions during the current year;

(c) whether any reciprocal arrangement is existing for the opening of Missions by those countries in India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) For reasons of economy, three Embassies were closed in 1993 in Malawi, Colombia and Zaire. Mission in Colombia was subsequently reopened.

(b) In the light of our subsequent experience, further consideration is being given to those decisions and there are also proposals for opening new resident Missions in some more countries. Formal announcements will be made once our assessment and preparations are complete.